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FEBRUARY 18, 1978

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY er, New Hampshire
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WHITE HOUSE
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HIGH SCHOOL FORUM WITH THE PRESIDENT
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Gymnasium, Senior High School
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Good morning, Mr. President. I  
am from the Lamoille Valley Regional High School

in St. Johnsbury.

The CIA has been run by a civilian all of its history except for at its birth, and now. Why do you have Stansfield Turner, a military man, running the CIA with all of his ties to the Pentagon?

THE PRESIDENT: The legislation that originally established the CIA specifically authorized the leadership of either military officers or civilians. The only prohibition is that both of the top two people cannot be military officers. Stan Turner is one of the most competent and brilliant and forceful leaders I have ever known. He happens coincidentally to have been a classmate of mine at Annapolis. I never knew him then personally. He was so far above me in academics and in leadership that I just admired him from a distance. He was a star football player. He was the top officer in the Naval Academy Brigade of Midshipmen, and he was right at the top of our class.

He was a Rhodes Scholar afterwards and had a brilliant career in the Navy. He was one of the first members of my class who ever made Admiral and then made four-stripe Admiral. He was a leader, a President of a Navy War College in Rhode Island, and completely transformed a relatively dormant organization into one that is vibrant and aggressive and very beneficial now to the Navy, to the armed forces and to our country.